

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Poland

REPORT

SUBJECT Shortage of Fishing Crews

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1. Many of the fishing craft of the state fishing enterprises Arka and Dalmor are tied up and lying idle in Polish ports on account of crew shortages. In Gdynia, for instance, six large and four small fishing vessels have not gone out to fish for many weeks, since the WOP (Military Border Guard) will not let them sail because their crews are incomplete.
2. The reasons for the shortages of fishermen include the following:
 - a. Many men are deprived by the security authorities of their fisherman's card on account of their political unreliability.
 - b. The small earnings of fishermen make many of them give up this work.
3. Theoretically the earnings of fishermen are high in comparison with other workers. In practice, however, fishermen's earnings are low because Arka and Dalmor cheat their employees on the weight of their catches, thereby drastically cutting wages. These state fishing enterprises have incurred enormous debts and hope thus to solve their financial difficulties. A fisherman's wages are made up as follows: basic pay (very low), payment for catches (the highest item), and premium for a catch in excess of the norm. As the result of being cheated on the weight of their catches, the fishermen not only receive less than the money due to them, but they are prevented from claiming the full premium earned on catches exceeding the norm.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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